



"She is good on paperwork, has good attention to detail and is approachable."  
**Police Law, Chambers UK 2017**

"She has a very strong grasp of the details of police regulations and is authoritative as a legal adviser." **Police Law, Chambers UK 2015**

"She has a good blend of practicality, pragmatism, academic ability and commercial awareness." **Police Law, Chambers UK 2015**

"She has a very broad practice and is meticulous and well prepared. She's also extremely approachable and helpful." **Police Law, Chambers UK 2014**

She "...Gets to grips with the case quickly and can handle a massive amount of information within a short period of time." **Police Law, Chambers UK 2014**

She is "...Very professional in her preparation and presentation of cases"  
**Professional discipline and regulatory law including Police Law, Legal 500 2012**



KATE CORNELL

### Practice Areas

POLICE LAW

INQUESTS

DISCIPLINE

### Clerks

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### Background:

Kate read history at St John's College, Cambridge. She converted to law at City University then completed the BVC at ICSSL. She was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn in October 2003.

Kate completed a criminal law pupillage and practised in criminal law until 2008.

She went in-house to work for BLM solicitors working on all aspects of professional negligence law, specialising in police law.

In July 2010 Kate joined 5 Essex Court.

### Police Law:

Kate has an extensive practice in police work and a broad experience of civil claims including claims for wrongful arrest, assault, false imprisonment, malicious prosecution, discrimination and misfeasance in public office.

Kate regularly handles human rights claims, especially involving Articles 2 and 8 and those arising out of protest. She has particular expertise in the complex issues surrounding the use and protection of informants and has recently argued several cases addressing the developing area of law relating to the "core immunity" of witnesses from suit.

Kate has a high success rate in striking out unmeritorious claims at the earliest possible stage, and of obtaining civil restraint orders against vexatious serial litigants.

With both criminal and civil experience, Kate has a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and issues facing police forces today, and she has the benefit of having appeared in jury trials, the Court of Appeal and the High Court in both civil and criminal contexts.

**Discipline:**

Kate has a comprehensive practice in police disciplinary cases and regularly appears as presenting officer and as legal adviser to the panel. She deals with cases from their earliest stages: from initial advice and drafting the Regulation 21 notice through to misconduct hearings; the Police Appeals Tribunal; and Judicial Review.

Kate has been commended on her witness handling and praised by the panel for her presentation of high-profile police cases. She regularly handles complex, lengthy and sensitive cases including cases of sexual misconduct and cases of significant media interest.

Kate also has experience of cases at the Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal, the Nursing and Midwifery Council and is a member of the Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers.

**Inquests:**

Kate acts in inquests and has dealt with cases involving the particular vulnerabilities of the mentally ill and the impact of this on police powers and duties.

**Other:**

Kate is a member of the South Eastern Circuit, Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers, Professional Negligence Bar Association and the Proceeds of Crime Lawyers Association.

**Lectures:**

Kate regularly advises and lectures on police policy, topical policing issues and key areas of new and established law, including police powers relating to protest and trespassory assemblies, disclosure and data protection, and the taking, retention and use of photographs without arrest or charge. Kate has delivered comprehensive training on police discipline, addressing both misconduct and unsatisfactory performance procedures. Kate frequently contributes to chambers police law publications.

**Significant work and cases**

Civil Law:

*CLG, AJD, JAD v Merseyside Police (2013)*

Trial defending a claim for wrongful disclosure of witnesses' identities to criminal defendants in a criminal trial. Claimants are currently appealing.

*A & B v Chief Constable of Hampshire Police [2012] EWHC 1517*

Successful strike out of a claim that the police had caused unauthorized disclosures of an informer's identity to be made during court hearings where the disclosures were protected by the core immunity applying to court procedures.

*Brogan and Baker v South Yorkshire Police*

Series of claims concerning execution of a search warrant. Successfully argued that there could be no claim based on an allegedly invalid warrant where parallel powers of entry meant the entry and search were lawful.

Disciplinary:

*R (on the application of Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis) v Police Appeals Tribunal [2013] EHC 4309 (Admin)*

Judicial review of a PAT decision to reinstate a special constable dismissed for gross misconduct.

Five Merseyside Matrix officers dismissed for gross misconduct following improper and unprofessional behaviour during a search. (Presented): <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-14400790>

<http://news.sky.com/home/uk-news/article/16043662>

Metropolitan Police officer dismissed without notice for seriously mishandling 999 calls. (Presented):

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/oct/25/999-calls-met-officer-sacked?INTCMP=SRCH>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-15445257>

An officer sacked after initiating a sexual relationship with a vulnerable woman he met through his policing duties. The case involved extensive legal argument about disclosure; the credibility of the claimant; and allegations of procedural irregularity. The findings and decision to dismiss were upheld by the PAT. (Presented at first instance and on appeal)

The Head of Finance of Surrey Police found to have concealed a relationship with a colleague and to have passed on confidential information to her. (Legal Advisor to the Chair)

A high profile case involving a supervising Sergeant accused of misallocating allegations of rape in order to improve performance targets within his unit. (Presented)

An officer sacked for failing to report sexually suggestive and inappropriate comments to him by a vulnerable 15-year-old runaway, and instead contacting the girl on and off duty, and conducting searches of police databases about her.

(Presented and successfully resisted the appeal on the papers)

**Interests:**

Kate enjoys reading, travel, theatre and rollercoasters.